

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the election reflected below.

No claims having been cancelled or added, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-37 remain pending in this application.

Election/Restriction Requirement

In the Action, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement, and requested that Applicants elect one of the two following groups for prosecution in connection with the present application. The two groups are as follows:

Group I, including claims 1-34, drawn to a method of making silicide, classified in class 438, subclass 592; or

Group II, including claims 35-37, drawn to a device, classified in class 257, subclass 513.

Applicants' Election

In response to the Restriction Requirement imposed by the Action, the Applicants respectfully elect, without traverse, claims 1-34 of Group I, corresponding to a method of making silicide.

Divisional Applications

In the event the present Restriction Requirement is not reconsidered and withdrawn, the Applicants explicitly reserve their right to file a divisional application for prosecution of any non-elected claims or other subject matter supported by the originally filed disclosure.

CONCLUSION

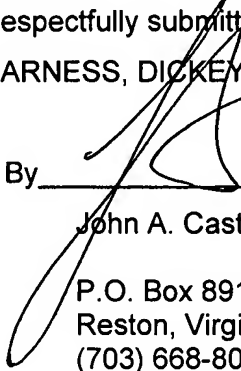
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested along with an early indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims 1-37. In the event that the Restriction Requirement is maintained, early and favorable consideration of the elected claims 1-34 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000


JAC/GPB:lmg